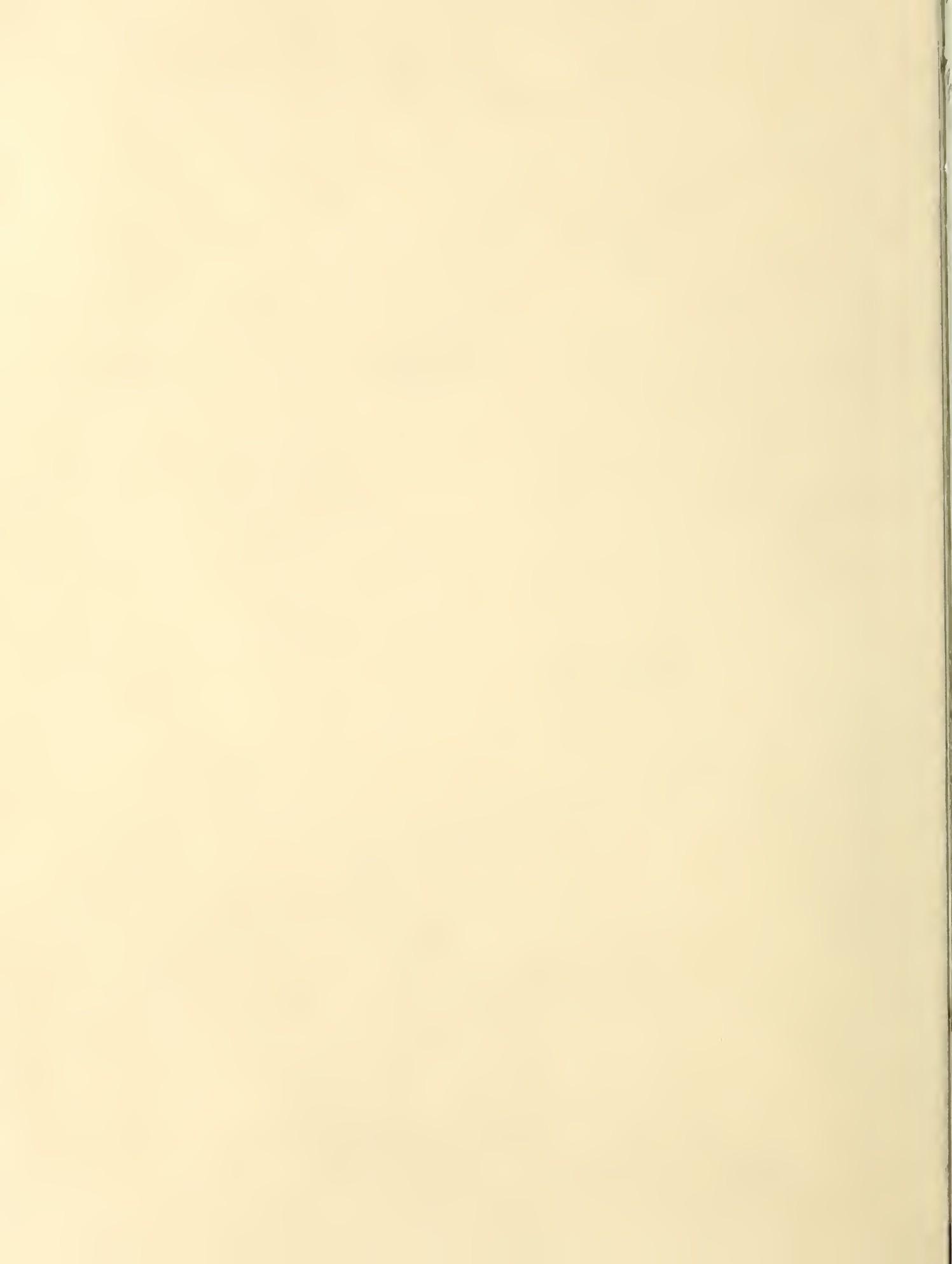


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Gardening is an ART

1. Select a well-drained site without shade. Remove any stones and debris on surface. Correct soil acidity by liming according to need shown by soil test. Most vegetables except potatoes do well in soil that is only slightly acid. S-17345

The United States Department of Agriculture is sponsoring the continuation of a garden and home food preservation program along lines established in 1951. The recommended program for 1952 includes continued coordinated educational efforts to help more people produce, consume and preserve needed home-grown and commercially-grown fruits and vegetables, and to insure better diets through the proper use of fruits and vegetables. Gardening, like cooking, is an art. There is no one right way to grow each kind of plant or to plan and do garden work--on the contrary, there are many good ways of getting successful results in the garden. Because of differences in soil, climate, and other conditions, some methods that are good in one situation may not be suitable in another. And certain mistakes or bad practices will lead to poor results or failure anywhere.

One does not become a skilled gardener in "six easy lessons." It takes work and time. It is desirable for the prospective gardener to work and talk with successful gardeners, to study their garden conditions and methods, before going to work on his own. A relatively

1. Preparation

small garden often can supply an important proportion of the fresh vegetables a family needs. Sometimes it can furnish a surplus for storing, canning, or drying, depending on how much good land is available and how well the garden is managed. A well-handled home vegetable garden in a suitable place should consistently yield produce having a money value considerably greater than the cost of seeds, fertilizer, lime, manure, chemicals for insect and disease control, and tools needed for the garden. The health values of the produce and of the outdoor exercise are of particular interest. Furthermore, vegetables from one's own garden can be harvested at the right time and used promptly when they have the highest quality and food value. The pictures in this first of a series of three are intended to show only one good way of doing each of about a dozen operations by hand in starting a small garden. They have been chosen to emphasize the importance of correct performance and attention to details from the beginning, and to remind the beginning gardener to provide himself with good garden publications and books, of which there are many. Beginners are also advised to join their local garden clubs.



2. Plow or spade as early as soil is dry enough to crumble when worked. Avoid digging so deeply as to bring up poor, hard, or otherwise undesirable subsoil. Crumble each spadeful as it is dug up. M-529



3. After plowing or spading prepare a good seedbed by breaking up remaining clods, removing stones or trash found below the surface, and making the surface even. S-9907



4. Fertilizer may be worked in broadcast or may be placed in rows on either side of the row to be planted. Large amounts must not be placed where the seed will touch it. S-9909

5. Cover the fertilizer and level the row again with a rake. S-9910



6. Then mark off the seed row right between the two rows containing the fertilizer. S-9911



7. For planting small seeds a mark or shallow trench can be made with the end of the hoe handle or rake handle. A trench made with the hoe itself is likely to be too deep. S-17377



8. Small seed such as carrot, lettuce, onion, spinach, kale, and turnip should be planted thinly in a finer, smoother seedbed than is required for large seeds such as peas, beans, and sweet corn. Also, small seed must not be covered deeply. S-9915



9. For planting large seeds the row is opened with the corner of the hoe or other tool to make a trench about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep. Seeds are easily covered with a rake. M-348



10. After covering to proper depth the soil should be firmed over the seed by light blows or pressure with a hoe or rake. The soil should not be packed hard over the row. S-9918



11. If packing rains cause a hard crust to form on the soil before the plants come up, break the crust with a chopping and crushing action of the rake. Do not move the soil about or dig into it deeply. S-9920



12. Beginners and very small gardeners will buy tomato, cabbage and other plants for transplanting. When transplanting, each plant should get a pint of water or of "starter solution" made by mixing $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of complete fertilizer in 2 gallons of water. M-505

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